



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
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## DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production** during December 2015 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was up 2 percent from December 2014. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 949,000 pounds live weight, up 4 percent from December 2014. Cattle slaughter totaled 900 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 42 pounds from the previous year, at 1,008 pounds.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 166,000 pounds live weight, up 7 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 303 pounds.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**United States – Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.27 billion pounds in December, up 3 percent from the 4.14 billion pounds produced in December 2014.

**Beef production**, at 2.05 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.45 million head, up slightly from December 2014. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,388 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 7.8 million pounds, 2 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 45,200 head, up 5 percent from December 2014. The average live weight was down 8 pounds from last year, at 295 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.21 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.36 million head, up 5 percent from December 2014. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 285 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 13.2 million pounds, was down 1 percent from December 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 199,600 head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, down 2 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2015 commercial red meat production** was 48.4 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2014. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 7 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

**December 2014** contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.  
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*Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.*